

Mullet Fisheries of the Salton Sea.

Developing a profitable fishing industry, and marketing ocean food fish from a brine-pickled pool of constantly varying salinity and water levels, far below the level of the oceans and in the midst of a blazing desert, is an accomplishment of man that is worthy of attention. This newest of American fisheries, which has recently commanded the attention of both state and Federal scientists, is in the Salton Sea of southern California, where the industry has grown up under some of the most adverse and extraordinary conditions existing in any fishing enterprise.

The Salton Sea is one of the most mysterious of all the world's inland brine pools. With its surface at this writing 257 ft. below ocean level, and its waters at times approaching six-fold the salinity of sea water, it has often been termed the Dead Sea of America. It is the lowest body of water on the face of the western hemisphere, and the lowest on earth with the exception of the Dead Sea of Palestine.

Little is known of the fish life of the Salton Sea prior to the last break in the Colorado River dikes. It is definitely known, however, that at the time the sea was something like six times as salty as ocean water, and this fact alone would have precluded the possibility of fish living in its waters. In 1905, the river overflowed its banks, cutting two channels to the Salton Sea which are now known as the New and Alamo rivers. The flood carried 160,000,000 cu. ft. of water which it emptied into the Salton Sea, freshening the water, raising its level, and greatly extending its area.

Several years after the flooding of the Salton Sea, the salt water mullet, a desirable food fish, of the identical species found in the Gulf of California, and other Pacific waters from Monterey southward, made its appearance in the sea. Two theories are advanced by scientists to account for the occurrence of the fish. The first is that they had swum from the Gulf of California into the fresh waters of the Colorado River, and were carried down into the Salton Sea by the flood. This theory, however, does not seem acceptable, inasmuch as the fishermen declare there is no authentic record of the salt-water mullet swimming up into fresh water streams. The second theory, and the more plausible one, is that the Salton Sea was stocked with fish by the white pelicans. These great birds inhabit the sea by tens of thousands, rearing their young on the several volcanic

islands, and making daily excursions to the Gulf of California for their food. Isolated mountain lakes are known to have been thus stocked with trout, and probably the fish of the Salton sea were carried there in the same manner.

In a short time a considerable colony of fishermen began to appear on the shores of the Salton Sea. Experiments by several large packing plants at Los Angeles with the canning of mullet also met with a high degree of success. Due to the terrific summer heat of the Salton basin, the temperatures often going as high as 125 degrees, the fish are iced aboard the fishing boats as soon as they are taken from the water. The fishermen work in canopy-topped boats, and in the water as much as possible for the purpose of keeping cool. The fish are landed on Mullet Island, where the receding sea has made possible the building of a motor road connecting it with the land. They are then trucked to Niland, on the southern Pacific line, for shipment to the canning plants and markets.

Just what the future of the Salton Sea fishing industry will be, no one can say until an accurate water survey and analysis of the water is made from samples taken from various portions of the lake and extending over a period of years. At present, the sea has a maximum depth of about 45 ft., and it is already well known that the salinity varies at different depths as well as in different localities according to the distance from sources of fresh-water supply. If the Salton Sea should ever again attain the degree of salinity that it possessed prior to the flood of 1905, it is probable that the fishing industry would be automatically terminated by the perishing of the fish. The fishermen and old residents about the sea, however, scoff the idea that the sea will ever go dry, or even recede to the point of increasing salinity beyond the endurance of the fish. They believe that the water is now holding its own against evaporation losses. Last year the sea receded 4 1/2 ft., and then without any apparent reason rose again 2 ft. With the constantly increasing irrigated area of the Imperial Valley and the development of additional irrigation projects along the Colorado River, an ever-increasing volume of over-flow water will be drained into the Salton Sea to freshen its waters and maintain its level.—Popular Mechanics Magazine.

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NOTICE OF ELECTION

Notice is hereby given, that pursuant to written petition signed by at least one-third of the resident electors and a like proportion of the resident free-holders of the age of twenty-one years, filed with the County Board of Education on the 12th day of July, 1929, and order thereon, an election will be held at the school house in Retreat School District, No. 48, in the County of Williamsburg, State of South Carolina, on Wednesday, the 28th day of July, 1929, on the question of voting a special tax levy of four (4) mills, and for the purpose of said election the polls shall be opened at seven o'clock in the forenoon and closed at four o'clock in the

afternoon of said day by the undersigned, and only qualified electors who return real or personal property for taxation and who exhibit their registration certificates and tax receipts shall be allowed to vote, and those voting for the levy shall vote "YES", and those voting against the levy shall vote "NO."

J. W. KIRBY,
I. C. PLAYER,
H. E. EASLER,
Trustees of Retreat School District,
No. 48, and Managers of Election.

M. D. NESMITH,
DENTIST,
Lake City, S. C.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FINAL DISCHARGE

Notice is hereby given that on the 10th day of July, 1929, I will apply to P. M. Brockington, Probate Judge of Williamsburg County, for Letters Dismissory as the General Guardian of Ellen Smith, et al—minors.

T. K. SMITH,
General Guardian.

6-10-5t.
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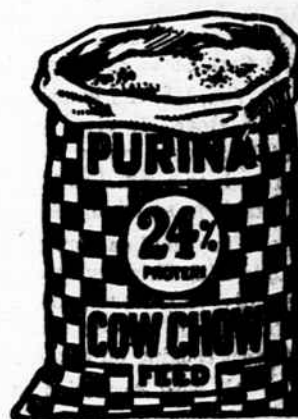
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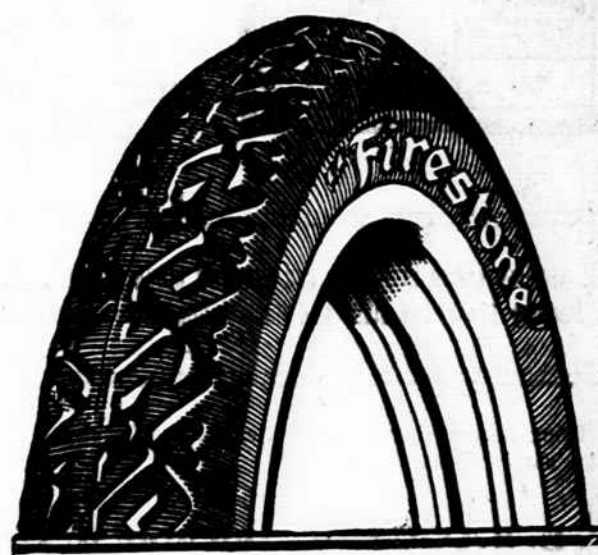
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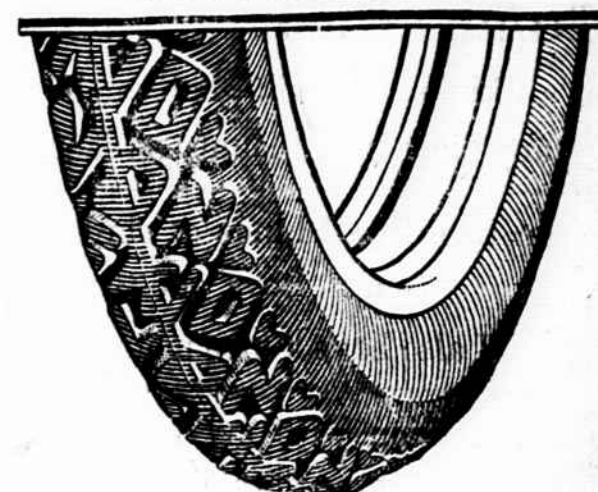


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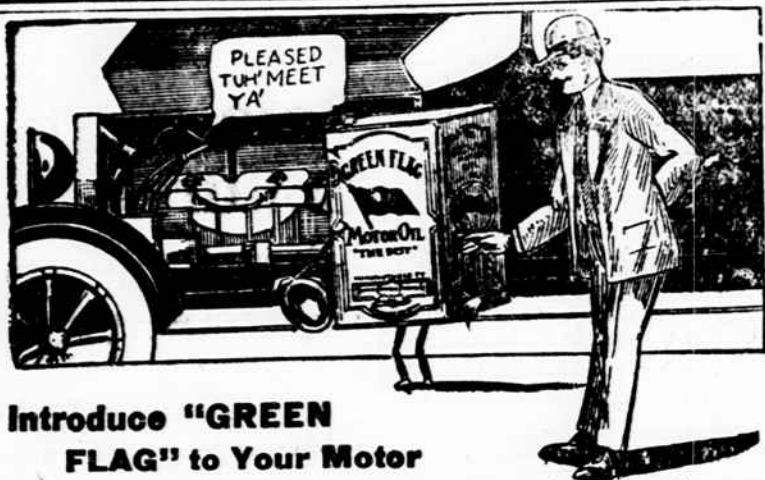
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